REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending. In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated 30 December 2002, the instant claim amendment serves to supercede the claim amendment filed on 07 October 2002.

Applicants inadvertently misnumbered the originally filed claims, and included a second "claim 5" immediately following claim 6, and immediately preceding claim 7. This second claim 5 occurrence has been cancelled, and rewritten as new claim 9. For clarity, claims 7-8 have also been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 10-11, respectively. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

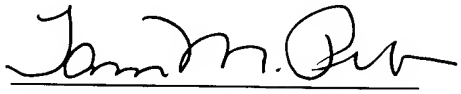
Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 and claims 9-11 will be pending. A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, and a marked-up copy of the amended claims, are submitted herewith as Appendices A and B, respectively, for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants also respectfully request that the Attorney Docket No. for the above-referenced application be changed from "MER-011DV / 112917.138 US2" to "MER-011 CN / 112917-144".

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant amendment complies with all the requirements of 37 C.F.R § 1.121, and that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that an interview (or an Examiner's Amendment) would assist in advancing the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Applicants are filing this response within one month of the mailing date of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated 30 December 2002. Thus, it is believed that no fees are due. However, if there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response and not otherwise authorized, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 08-0219. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is hereby petitioned and the fee should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,



Tamera M. Pertmer, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No.: 47,856

Date: 01/15/03
HALE AND DORR LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6000
Fax: (617) 526-5000

APPENDIX B

PENDING CLAIMS 1-6 AND 9-11 – MARKED-UP VERSION

Please cancel the second occurrence of claim 5 (the claim 5 which immediately follows claim 6, and immediately precedes claim 7), and please cancel claims 7 and 8, as follows:

1. An *in vitro* method for producing dendritic cells from pluripotential cells, comprising contacting the pluripotential cells with a factor for a time sufficient for the pluripotential cells to mature and express characteristics of dendritic cells.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the pluripotential cells are CD14 positive mononuclear pluripotential cells.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the pluripotential cells are peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the pluripotential cells are monocytes.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the factor comprises GM-CSF.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the factor further comprises a cytokine selected from the group consisting of IL-4; IL-13; IL-4 and IL-1β; IL-13 and IL-1β; IL-4 and TNF-α; IL-13 and TNF-α; IL-4, IL-1β and TNF-α; IL-13, IL-1β and TNF-α; IL-4 and IL-12; IL-13 and IL-12; IL-4 and stem cell factor, IL-13 and stem cell factor; IL-4 and IL-15; and IL-13 and IL-15.

~~5. The method of claim 5, wherein the GM-CSF is present at a concentration of between about 200 U/ml to about 2000 U/ml.~~

~~7. The method of claim 1, wherein the dendritic cells express high levels of MHC class molecules.~~

~~8. The method of claim 1, wherein the dendritic cells have the capacity to stimulating resting T cells.~~

Please add new claims 9-11 as follows:

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the GM-CSF is present at a concentration of between about 200 U/ml to about 2000 U/ml.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dendritic cells express high levels of MHC class molecules.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dendritic cells have the capacity to stimulate resting T cells.